

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ IAI: JEMCATEER: SKG

6/15/73 EXT 20666

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TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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S E C R E T STATE 117944

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IS

SUBJECT: SISCO- DINITZ CONVERSATION JUNE 15

1. ASSTSEC SISCO SPOKE WITH ISRAELI AMB DINITZ MID- MORNING JUNE 15. SISCO SAID WE HAVE NOTICED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF "NERVOUSNESS" IN LEBANESE PRESS DURING LAST 24-48 HOURS. USG PRESUMES THIS REFLECTS CONCERN ON PART OF LEBANESE PRESS (AND NOT NECESSARILY GOL) THAT ISRAELIS MIGHT RETALIATE FOR RECENT BORDER SKIRMISH DURING WHICH ONE ISRAELI OFFICER WAS KILLED.

2. SISCO SAID USG REGRETS THIS INCIDENT, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE LIVES WERE LOST, BUT HE WANTED TO PASS ON WHAT WAS OBVIOUS-- THAT ON EVE OF SUMMIT MEETING A COUNTERMOVE BY ISRAELIS WOULD CREATE ADDITIONAL PRESSURE FOR SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION THAT WOULD FOLLOW SUMMIT. THE BORDER INCIDENT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN WORK OF SPLINTER GROUP OF FEDAYEEN WHO ARE TRYING TO UNDERMINE WHAT ISRAELIS AND USG BOTH THINK IS BETTER AGREEMENT BETWEEN GOL AND FEDAYEEN THAN WAS GENERALLY BELIEVED POSSIBLE. IN ADDITION, SAID SISCO, AN ISRAELI COUNTERREACTION AT THIS TIME WOULD CREATE MANY PROBLEMS.

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LEMS FOR US IN OUR IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH LEBANESE. WE
HOPED ISRAEL WOULD TAKE ALL THIS INTO CONSIDERATION.

3. DINITZ SAID HE APPRECIATED SISCO' S STATEMENT AND ADDED
HE HAS RECEIVED NOTHING FROM ISRAEL TO INDICATE ANY ACTION
IS PLANNED. HE SAID HIS OWN INCLINATION IS TO BELIEVE THAT
LEBANESE PRESS REPORTS ARE EXAGGERATIONS. ROGERS

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